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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: Viet Cong forces temporarily vacated their main siege positions surrounding the government's paramilitary camp at Duc Co early yesterday morning in order to ambush a government relief column moving along Route 19 from the provincial capital of Pleiku.

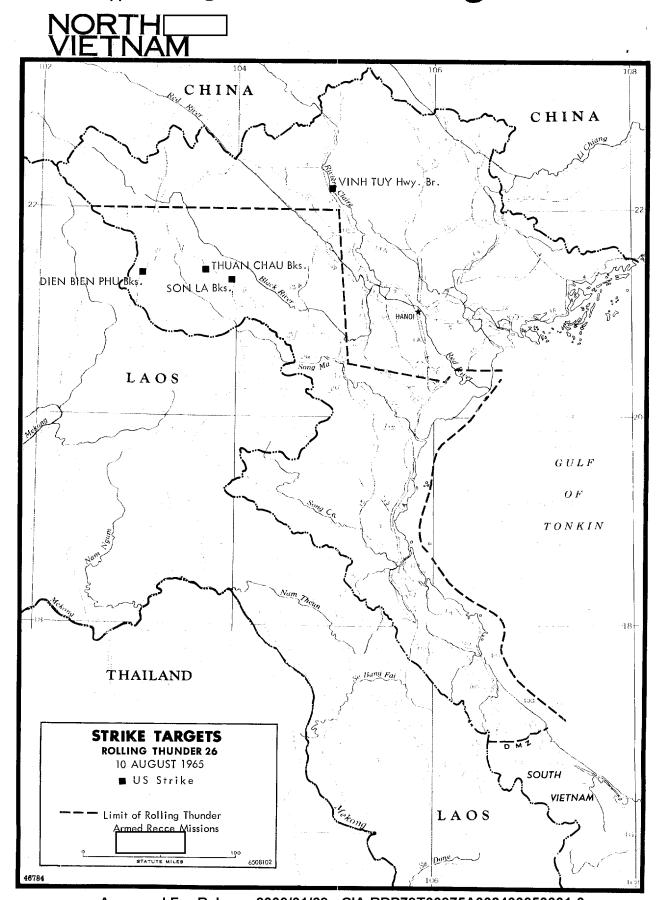
In extremely heavy fighting occurring between three and five miles east of the camp during the day, elements of the relief force suffered moderate to heavy casualties and failed to reach the camp by nightfall. In addition, two government tanks and several trucks were reportedly destroyed, with two 105-mm howitzers either destroyed or captured.

Meanwhile, Viet Cong units returned to their positions around the camp and by evening had resumed their mortar bombardment of the garrison, inflicting further casualties on the two Vietnamese government airborne battalions which have been defending the camp since 2 August.

The US 173rd Airborne Brigade, consisting of one artillery and two infantry battalions, was ordered yesterday from its perimeter defense of Bien Hoa Air Base to a ready reserve position in Pleiku City, 35 miles from Duc Co; one of the infantry battalions arrived in Pleiku late in the day. In addition, the Vietnamese government is maintaining one reserve battalion in Pleiku and one in the provincial capital of Kontum, 50 miles northeast of the besieged camp.

(continued)





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11 Aug of CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN Map

Elsewhere, a US Marine artillery barrage reportedly dispersed a Viet Cong company yesterday three miles from Da Nang Air Base. The enemy unit, located by an observation aircraft, was believed to have been the same one which attacked Marine positions southwest of the base the previous evening.

Viet Cong units were active for the sixth consecutive night in Chuong Thien Province, directing either mortar bombardments or small arms fire on four separate government outposts.

US Air Strikes: On 10 August US Air Force planes succeeded in dropping one of the four spans of the Vinh Tuy bridge on one of the principal highways between China's Yunnan Province and north-central North Vietnam. Thai-based US planes, however, were less successful in the latest strike against the Dien Bien Phu barracks. Pilots report that only two buildings were destroyed and one damaged.

Carrier-based US aircraft attacked the Son La barracks destroying several buildings and substantially damaging at least four others. Other Navy planes hit the Thuan Chau barracks and pilots report leaving five buildings in flames. Numerous day and night armed reconnaissance missions were also flown and several buildings, barges and an undetermined number of trucks were damaged.

Two US aircraft were lost during the day's operations. One pilot was recovered when he bailed out over Laos; the other is presumed dead. This brings the total number of <u>aircraft lost in operations over North</u> Vietnam to 80.

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<u>Kashmir:</u> New Delhi and Karachi are issuing conflicting statements on the extent of the fighting in Kashmir.

An Indian spokesman stated on 10 August that the Pakistani infiltrators, having suffered heavy losses, were fleeing. Delhi radio reports that conditions in Srinagar and the Vale of Kashmir are "normal" and that Indian forces are engaged in mop-up operations.

Karachi radio and press, on the other hand, continue their propaganda barrage to the effect that a popular revolt has broken out against the Indians. No further details are available, however, on the composition or location of the "revolutionary council" allegedly established on 8 August, or of the "provisional national government" which the "council" is said by Karachi radio to have set up yesterday.

There has been no direct reporting from the scene of the conflict.

With the Indian parliament due to convene on 16 August, Prime Minister Shastri may be put under heavy political pressure to respond decisively to Pakistan's military initiative in Kashmir. The necessity to face an aroused parliament every day compounded the government's problems in handling the recent Rann of Kutch crisis.

Greece: The political deadlock is fostering antimonarchical feeling which could lead to more violence.

Demonstrations in both Athens and Salonika, following the Center Union's rejection of a government headed by Stephanopoulos on Monday, were largely aimed at the monarchy. Placards warned King Constantine to "beware" or "lose your head" and there were shouts of "Down with the German woman," a reference to the unpopular Queen Mother. In Salonika demonstrators called for a plebiscite on the monarchy.

Young supporters of Papandreou are reported to have pledged to demonstrate every night until he returns to power.

If the demonstrators, which include Communist-controlled elements, abandon their restraint, future demonstrations could result in clashes with the police and spreading violence. In this event, military forces that have been moved into the Athens area in recent weeks would almost certainly intervene.

The political scene remains clouded, but the King seems to have succeeded in widening cleavages within Papandreou's Center Union party. The four-hour party caucus on Monday apparently was marked by bitter recrimination. One pro-Stephanopoulos Center Union deputy has said that Stephanopoulos supporters might bolt the party and join the Novas faction to form a coalition government with the National Radical Union and the Progressive Party. Such a coalition, mathematically, would have the votes to form a government. There is doubt, however, that Stephanopoulos would have the courage to support such a move in the face of almost certain condemnation by Papandreou.

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*Dominican Republic: Antonio Imbert, leader of the Government of National Reconstruction, announced to the OAS committee yesterday that he was willing to sign the "Act of Reconciliation" which would establish a provisional government headed by Hector Garcia Godoy.)

Imbert, who has come under increasing pressure from military leaders and others desiring an end to the impasse, coupled his acceptance, however, with the condition that no concessions be made to the Caamano side Initial rebel reaction to the OAS proposed settlement was unfavorable, but rebel negotiators indicated they would study the act and submit counterproposals.

"Constitutional" Government leader Francisco
Caamano has reiterated demands that all rebel military
officers be re-incorporated into the armed forces and
that a more specific date be set for withdrawal of the
Inter-American Peace Force (IAPF). He also objected
to the IAPF's assuming responsibility for policing the
rebel zone, saying that the provisional government must
undertake this function. Caamano called for continued
negotiation to settle these points.

Obstructionists in the rebel camp, such as Hector Aristy, may attempt to inflame rebel sentiment against the proposals, but members of Juan Bosch's party appeared eager to smooth over differences and reach an early settlement.

A possible point of contention was apparently eliminated when Secretary of the Armed Forces Rivera Caminero gave his assurance that he would leave his post within 30 days after the provisional government is installed. Rivera also expressed determination that General Wessin must go

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NOTE

South Korea: The National Assembly is moving toward approval of the Korean-Japanese treaty and the dispatch of combat forces to South Vietnam. The opposition People's Party (PP) is acting within the parliamentary framework by participating in committee debate on the bills, although its members continue to threaten to resign from the assembly. Meanwhile, President Pak and strong-man Kim Chong-pil are determined to pass the bills by 17 August, even if the opposition walkout takes place.

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